Using Blurs in Animations

Blur effects can be used in animations to highlight important parts by making them gradually come into focus. To illustrate this a short animation advertising a car will be created.
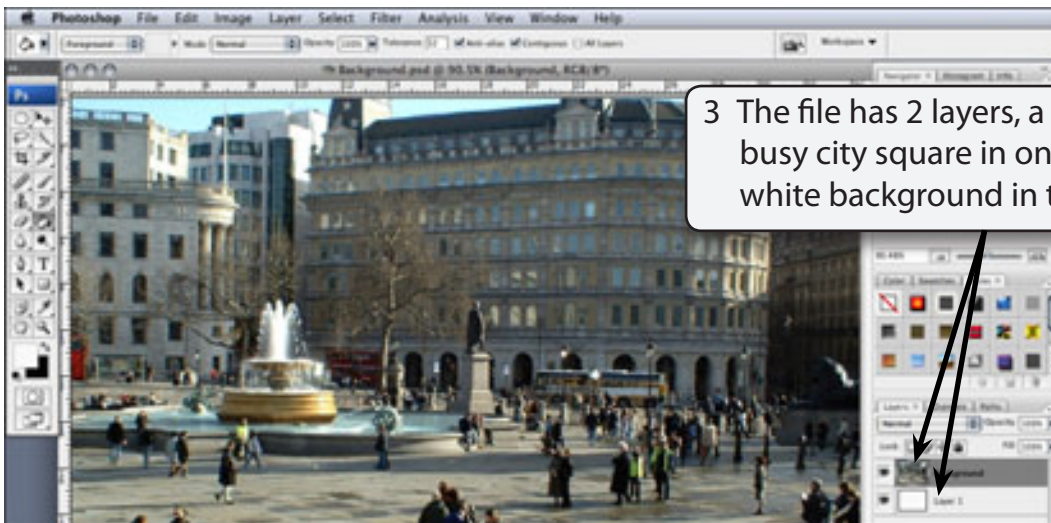
Creating the Layers

The first step in creating an animation in Photoshop is to set up the required layers.

A   Loading the Background Layer
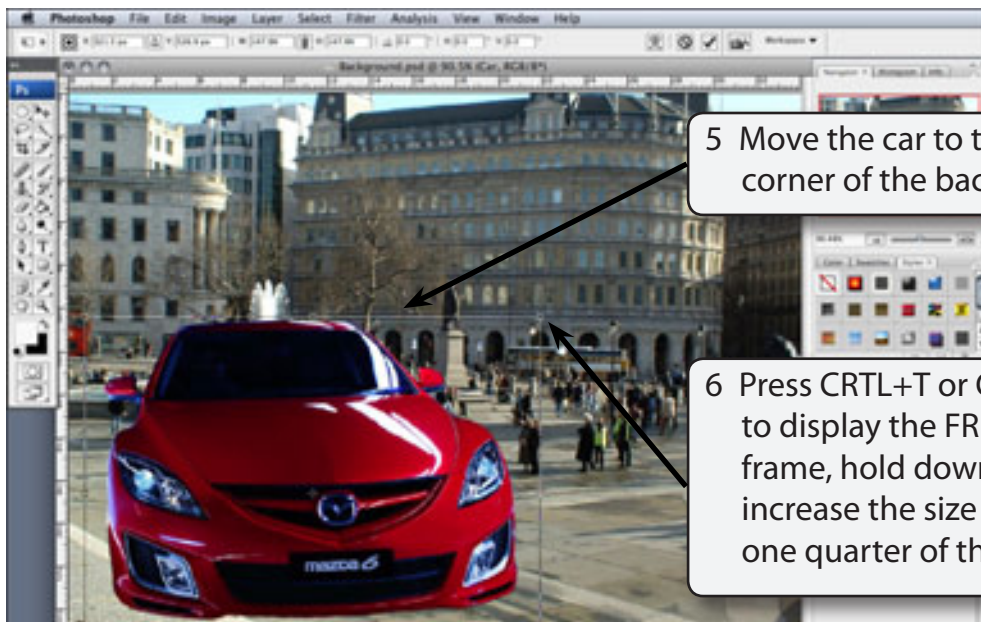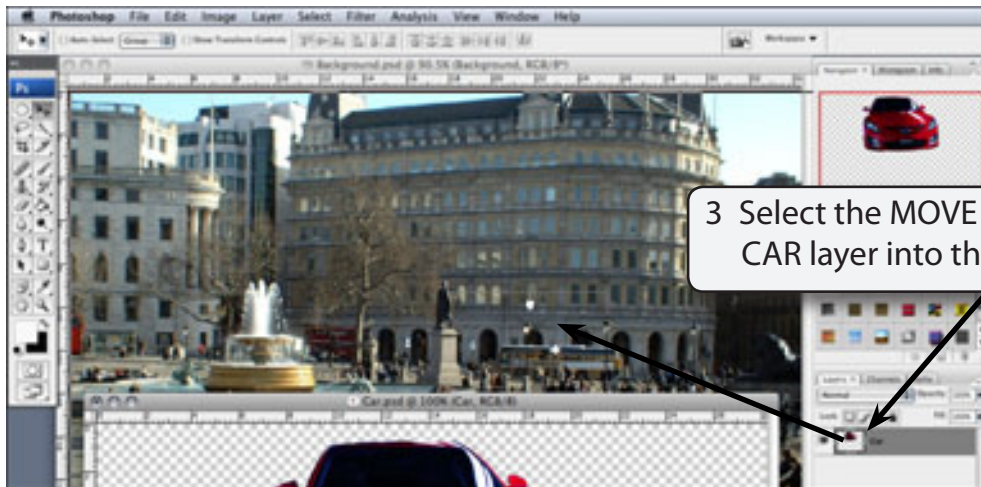
The background will be a photo of a busy city square.

1   Load Photoshop, display the FILE menu and select OPEN.

2   Access the PSapps SUPPORT FILES, open the EXERCISE 7 folder and load the BACKGROUND file.

3 The file has 2 layers, a photo of a busy city square in one layer and a white background in the other.

B   Adding the Car Layer

A photo of a car has been prepared for you and it needs to be added to the BACKGROUND file.

1   Display the FILE menu and select OPEN.

2   Access the EXERCISE 9 folder of the PSapps SUPPORT FILES and load the CAR file.

3 Select the MOVE TOOL and drag the CAR layer into the BACKGROUND file.

4 Select OK if a COLOUR warning dialogue box is displayed.

5 Move the car to the bottom left corner of the background.

6 Press CRTL+T or COMMAND+T to display the FREE TRANSFORM frame, hold down the SHIFT key and increase the size of the car to about one quarter of the background.

7   Press <enter> or <return> to accept the transformation.

C   Adding the Text Layer

Some text will be added at the top of the background.

1 Select the HORIZONTAL TEXT TOOL and, in the OPTIONS BAR, set the FONT to a serif font such as TIMES NEW ROMAN or CHAPARRAL PRO, the STYLE to BOLD AND ITALIC, the SIZE to 48 pt and the TEXT COLOUR to YELLOW.

2 Click at the top left of the centre building and enter:

     Looking for Style   <enter>
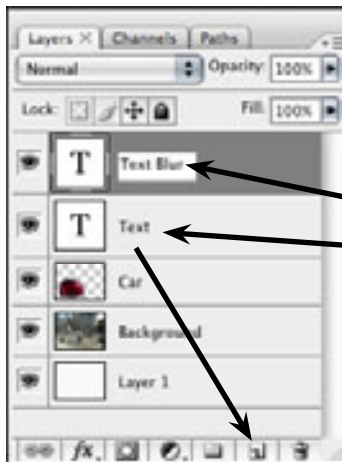   and Performance.   <enter>
     Test Drive Today!

3 Select the MOVE TOOL and move the text to the top floor of the building.
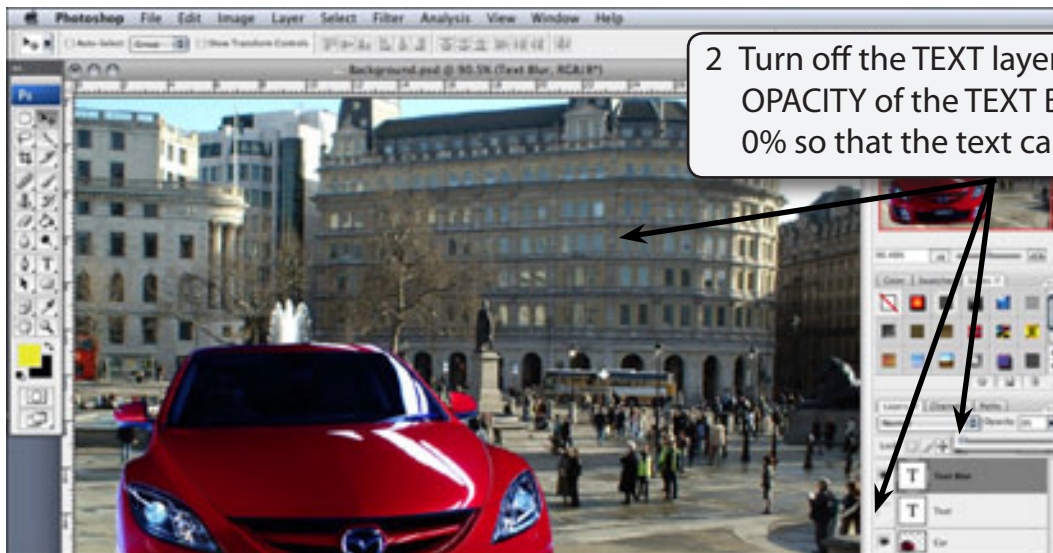
4 Change the name of the text layer to: TEXT.

Creating the Blur Layers

Each layer will be duplicated and its copy blurred or its opacity reduced.
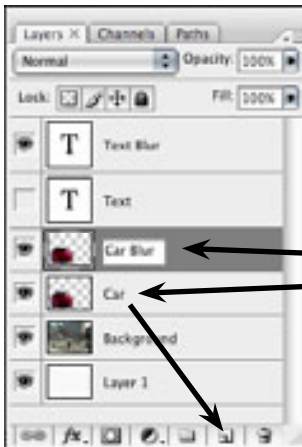
A Blurring the Text

1 Drag the TEXT layer over the CREATE A NEW LAYER icon and rename the duplicate layer: Text Blur
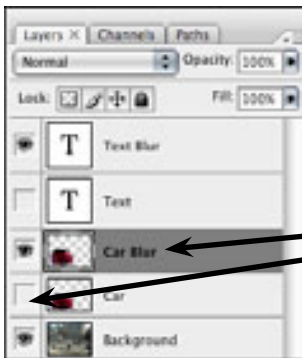

2 Turn off the TEXT layer and set the OPACITY of the TEXT BLUR layer to 0% so that the text cannot be seen.
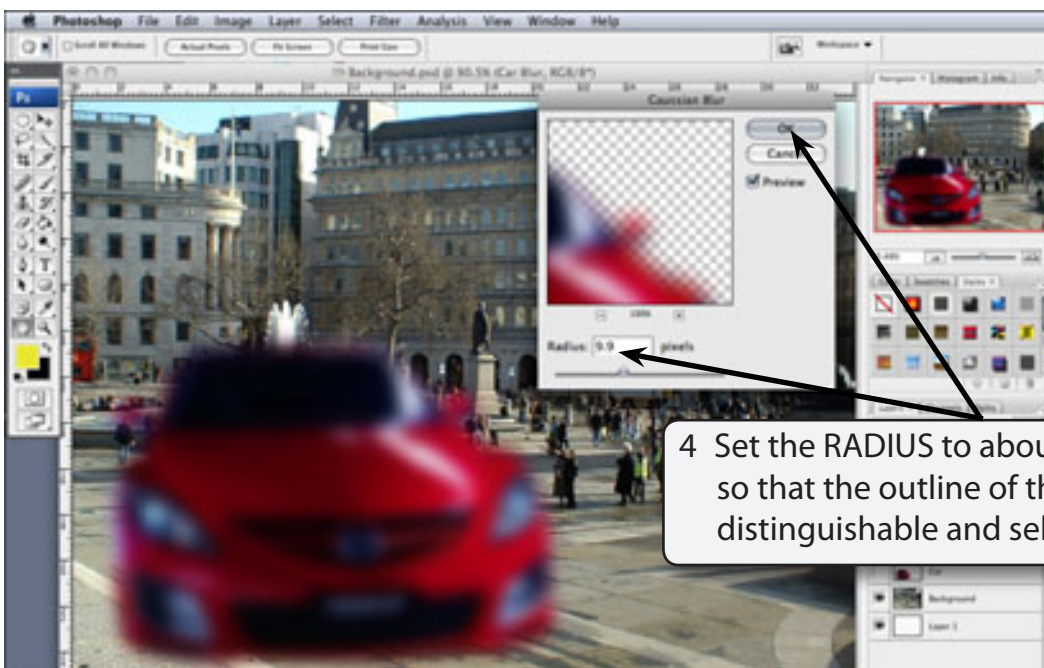
B   Blurring the Car

1 Drag the CAR layer over the CREATE A NEW LAYER icon and rename the duplicate layer:

Car Blur

2 Turn off the CAR layer and the CAR BLUR layer should still be selected.

3   Display the FILTER menu, highlight BLUR and select GAUSSIAN BLUR.

4 Set the RADIUS to about 10 px so that the outline of the car is distinguishable and select OK.